

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MICHAEL
HAND

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Michael Hand before the United States House of Representatives in recognition of his retirement as Assistant Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC). Mr. Hand, a Philadelphia native, has led a remarkable career defined by his ardent and diligent service to union members nationwide.

Originally from the River Ward section of Philadelphia, commonly called the Flat Iron, Mr. Hand earned his start in the labor community as member of Local Union 1050, serving on its Executive Board in numerous capacities for nearly 30 years. Prior to being appointed to his leadership role at the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, Mr. Hand served as one of the EASRCC's Senior Area Managers, expertly assisting the organization and its 40,000 members in Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, and 10 North Carolina counties.

Throughout his accomplished and lengthy career as a skilled carpenter, Mr. Hand was involved in construction projects at some of Philadelphia's most well-known institutions, including at the University of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia International Airport, Luken Steel, the Philadelphia Convention Center, and Liberty II, among others.

While Mr. Hand no longer resides in Philadelphia, he continues to selflessly give back to our community through his involvement with the "Carpenters Who Care" program, that helps carpenters struggling with addiction, and through his volunteer work with the Center of Support for Children's Advocates and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals (SPCA).

I wish Mr. Hand and his family the best in their future endeavors. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation to Michael Hand for his extraordinary contributions to our society.

HONORING SADIE DELICATH AND
HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS
TO BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, February is Black History month. This month, and every month, let us celebrate the Black Americans who built this nation, amplify the voices of those who continue to fight for a more just society, and recommit to taking real action. We must remember that Black History is American History as we reflect on the people who have strengthened our nation.

This past year, the fight for racial justice was especially important in wake of unspeakable tragedies like the murders of George

Floyd and Breonna Taylor. People of all ages protested from coast to coast, calling for justice, saying enough is enough, and demanding change. I was particularly inspired by a group of young students led by Social Studies Teacher Nicole Clark, English Language Arts Teacher Monica Powell, and Inclusion Specialist Courtney Legg at Two Rivers Public Charter School in Washington, D.C.—where my granddaughter Sadie Delicath attends. During their recent school showcase they presented their "resistance poems" which I have shared with my colleagues in an e-booklet and posted to my website at:

<https://delauro.house.gov/sites/delauro.house.gov/files/documents/TwoRiversPoems.pdf>.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." During these unprecedented times, where we are also struggling to combat a pandemic that is disproportionately affecting communities of color, we must have the courage to make meaningful change. It is clear that the young authors of these poems certainly have that courage. I was particularly inspired by their words, and I am confident that my colleagues in the Congress were as well.

It is through their dedication and commitment of young people—and that of so many others before them—we are able to continue this fight for equality, justice and opportunity today and for many years to come.

I would like to share the poem written by my granddaughter Sadie. I am inspired by her every day:

CHANGE NEEDS TO COME

(By Sadie Delicath)

Do you know what it's like to be a Black person in America?

'Cause I don't.

I don't look at the tv and see another brother, mother, daughter, or father hanging from a tree or getting shot in her sleep wondering if next time it will be me.

Do you know what it's like to be a white person in America? 'Cause I do.

When I see a cop car there are no butterflies dancing in my stomach or the sinking feeling something bad is going to happen.

Is that how everyone feels, or just me?

Do you know what it's like to be a white person in America? 'Cause I do.

Having privilege because of the color of my skin, being protected by something I'm born in.

History is a broken record, skips a couple of times, but always repeats itself.

Our laws and our norms always find a way to keep racism around.

Slavery led to Jim Crow and Jim Crow to police brutality

We have the power to put an end to this pain, but Black people are silenced as if by thunderous rain.

Denouncing racism is not enough, a black square is not enough, do you really care or is it just a bluff?

Black Lives Matter is not a trend, we have to put racism to an end.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC
BUILDINGS RENEWAL ACT OF 2021

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Public Buildings Renewal Act of 2021. This legislation will spur private investment in public building infrastructure throughout the United States by creating \$5 billion in Private Activity Bonds for the development of government-owned public buildings. Critically, this legislation intends that these bonds are compliant with Davis-Bacon labor standards.

In every American community, there are serious concerns about the condition of our schools, public hospitals, justice facilities, universities, and libraries. With state and local budgets becoming increasingly strained, officials have chosen to save money by steadily reducing capital investment in public buildings. But years of underinvestment have led to facilities that are inadequately maintained, fail to comply with current codes or disability requirements, and do not have adequate security—endangering the public. Throughout the country, the average public school building is at least 40 years old, and the current backlog of maintenance and repair projects adds up to more than \$45 billion annually in unmet funding needs. It is past time that we upgrade our public buildings to provide a safe, modern, and efficient experience from coast to coast.

Presently, the use of public-private partnerships to develop government owned public buildings is restricted because, unlike transportation projects, public buildings are not currently eligible for Private Activity Bonds. This unnecessary impediment prevents public building from combining tax-exempt financing with private, taxable financing, resulting in lower project costs for our state and local governments. The Public Buildings Renewal Act adds public buildings as a new class of projects eligible for financing with Private Activity Bonds, allowing state and local governments to invest in public building infrastructure projects more easily. Once enacted, state and local governments would be able to enter long-term contracts with a private sector company to design, build, finance, and/or operate and maintain the building for a defined period. This legislation is intended to provide an additional financing option to state and local governments looking to improve their public buildings, not be a panacea for all projects.

We can no longer accept schools and hospitals in disrepair, deferred maintenance, and delayed capital investment. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to include this legislation in an infrastructure investment package.

HONORING STEPHEN M.
CULPOVICH'S SERVICE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, today we honor Stephen M. Culpovich, who is retiring